

Appl. No. 10/509,848
Amdt. Dated of September 20, 2007
Reply to Office action of July 27, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10-18, and 21-22 are pending in the present application after amendments. Claims 8-9 and 19-20 have been withdrawn without prejudice. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to particularly point out the claimed invention; claims 10 and 21 have been amended to correct the formality defects due to amendments made. The amendments are supported by the originally filed specification and claims. No new matter has been introduced.

Rejection to Claims 1-3 and 5-11 under 35 USC 102(b) by Wuelker (US 1,546,529)

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-3 and 5-11 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Wuelker, U.S. Pat. 1,546,529 (US '529). Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are not anticipated by US '529 for the following reasons.

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The claimed subject matter in the pending claims as represented by Claim 1 is directed to a paint roller that comprises a frustoconically-shaped applicator having two opposite ends, a coupling portion disposed at one of said opposite ends, and an external surface between said two opposite ends, said frustoconically-shaped applicator being rotatable at said coupling portion about a rotary axis; said frustoconically-shaped applicator comprises a chamber for storing paint; wherein the end bearing the coupling portion has a planar cross-section smaller than a corresponding planar cross-section of the other opposite end; and at least one paint-absorbable member mounted to said external surface. As underlined, one of the claimed features of the present invention is that the coupling portion is borne on the smaller end of the paint roller.

US '529 discloses an oil and polish applier that comprises a cylinder having an integral head at one end and a detachable head at the other end to form a polish container; the heads are provided with axial openings to accommodate a stem. After the stem is clamped tight to the cylinder, the stem cannot move in relative to the cylinder while the stem can rotate along with the cylinder. It is to be noted that the stem

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is clamped down for use at the detachable head, the larger end of the cylinder. It is evident that US '529 fails to teach or suggest all claimed features in the paint roller claimed in the present invention.

In summary, Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 10-11 are not anticipated by US '529.

Rejection to Claims 4 and 12-22 under 35 USC 103(a) over US '529 in view of Baril

The Examiner rejects Claims 4 and 12-22 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wuelker (US '529) in view of Baril, US 4,196,491 (US '491). Applicant respectfully submits that the currently amended Claims 4 and 12-22 are not unpatentable over US '529 in view of US '491 for the following reasons.

The claimed subject matters in Claims 4 and 12-22 are represented by Claim 12 which is directed to a paint roller comprising: a frustoconically-shaped applicator having two opposite ends, a coupling portion disposed at one of said opposite ends, and an external surface between said two opposite ends, said frustoconically-shaped applicator being rotatable at said coupling portion about a rotary axis; wherein the

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end bearing the coupling portion has a planar cross-section smaller than
a corresponding planar cross-section of the other opposite end; at least
one paint-absorbable member mounted to said external surface; a handle
having a pivot mount; and a movement coupler detachably coupled to
said coupling portion and to said pivot mount. As underlined, the
claims features include the smaller end functioning as the coupling
portion and the movement coupler being used.

US ‘529, as discussed above, discloses an oil and polish
applier that has a stem clamped at the larger end of the cylinder.

US ‘491 discloses a controllable paint roller in which the
cylindrical body adapted to support a cylindrical paint applicator is
controlled by a locking control on the handle for interrupting the
rotation of the cylindrical paint applicator. In addition, US ‘491
discloses that the paint roller may be moved from an orthogonal position
with respect to handle to a parallel but offset position by loosening wing
nut 34. See, col. 3, lines 6-11, and FIG.2.

It is evident that the combination of US ‘529 and US ‘491,
even if not permissibly, fails to disclose all the claimed features in the

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paint roller claimed in the present invention. Therefore, Claims 4, 12-18, and 21-22 are not unpatentable over US '529 in view of US '491.

In summary, Claims 1-7, 10-18, and 21-22 are novel and non-obvious in view of the cited prior arts. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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